



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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February 22, 2024

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

H-GAC, TCEQ to Host Oyster Creek and Big Creek Public Meetings

*Residents and stakeholders are invited to comment on
a plan to reduce bacteria in two Fort Bend waterways.*

Houston, TX – The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) will hold two public meetings to discuss water quality issues impacting Oyster Creek and Big Creek located in southern Fort Bend County.

Big Creek Public Meeting
6 p.m., February 26, 2024
George Memorial Library, Room 2A
1001 Golfview Dr., Richmond, TX 77469

Oyster Creek Public Meeting
6 p.m., February 27, 2024
Lake Jackson Public Library
250 Circle Way St., Lake Jackson, TX 77566

The purpose of each meeting is to share a draft plan to reduce the total maximum daily load (TMDL) bacteria levels along Oyster Creek and Big Creek with the community and to receive input. A TMDL is a detailed water quality assessment that provides the scientific foundation to allocate pollutant loads in a certain body of water to levels that restore and maintain its designated uses, such as recreation.

TMDL Revision and Implementation Process

At each public meeting, stakeholders and residents will have the opportunity to learn about and comment on the major components of the TMDL for each waterway including the problem definition, endpoint identification, source analysis, linkage analysis, margin of safety, pollutant load allocation, seasonal variation, public participation, implementation, and reasonable assurance.

Following the public meetings, TCEQ may revise the draft TMDLs based on community feedback as appropriate. The final TMDLs will then be considered by the TCEQ for adoption, and both the final TMDLs and responses to public comments received will be made available on TCEQ's website.

The TMDLs will then be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office for final action. Upon approval by EPA, the TMDLs will be certified as an update to the State of Texas Water Quality Management Plan.

Public Comment

The public comment periods for both Big Creek and Oyster Creek are open through **11:59 p.m. on March 12, 2024**. After that time, no other comments may be submitted. See the information below to learn how you can provide comments for each of the waterways.

Submit Big Creek Public Comments

1. In person at the Feb. 26, Big Creek public meeting
2. In writing by mail:
Attn: Daniela Mejia, Water Quality Planning Division
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
MC 203 P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas, 78711-3087
3. By fax: fax4808@tceq.texas.gov



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4. Online: <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments submitted using the TCEQ Public Comments system.

For further information regarding the draft Big Creek TMDLs, contact: Daniela Mejia at Daniela.Mejia@tceq.texas.gov. The draft TMDLs can be viewed at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/nav/122-bigcreekbacteria>.

Persons with disabilities who have special communication or other accommodation needs who are planning to participate in the February 26, Big Creek public meeting should contact Daniela Mejia at Daniela.Mejia@tceq.texas.gov. Requests should be made as far in advance as possible.

Submit Oyster Creek Public Comments

1. In person at the Feb. 27, Oyster Creek public meeting
2. In writing by mail:
Attn: Jazmyn Milford, Water Quality Planning Division
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
MC 203, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas, 78711-3087
3. By fax: fax4808@tceq.texas.gov.
4. Online: <https://tceq.commentinput.com/>. File size restrictions may apply to comments submitted via the TCEQ Public Comments system.

For further information regarding the draft Oyster Creek TMDLs, contact: Jazmyn Milford at Jazmyn.Milford@tceq.texas.gov. The draft TMDLs can be viewed at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/waterquality/tmdl/nav/114-oystercreek-bacteria>.

Persons with disabilities who have special communication or other accommodation needs who are planning to participate in the February 27, Oyster Creek public meeting should contact Jazmyn Milford at Jazmyn.Milford@tceq.texas.gov. Requests should be made as far in advance as possible.

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Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC promotes efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit h-gac.com.